

**For further information,
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Travel Montana
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Dam and Lake Information

Fort Peck Dam

Type	Hydraulic earth filled
Volume of fill	126 million cubic yards
Height	250.5 feet
Width at crest	50 feet
Width at base	3,500 feet
Length	21,026 feet

Power Plant

Total generating capacity	185,250 kw
Number of generators	5
Type of generators	Vertical Francis
Average annual energy	1 billion kwh
Main preference hydroelectric power customers in Montana are rural electric cooperatives.	

Lake

Length	134 miles
Maximum depth	220 feet
Storage capacity	18.688 million acre-feet



September 2006

Fort Peck

Dam & Lake

Montana



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Omaha District

Welcome!



The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers welcomes you to beautiful Fort Peck Dam and Lake. A main attraction to northeastern Montana, Fort Peck Lake is one of the largest man-made reservoirs in the United States—with more than 1,500 miles of shoreline.

The vast size of Fort Peck Lake and its remoteness attract visitors to the outdoor opportunities the area has to offer. Popular recreation activities include camping, boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, sightseeing, bird-watching, swimming, and relaxing in the quiet Big Sky Country. Campgrounds are available throughout the Fort Peck Lake area. Amenities include potable water, dump station and sites with electric hookups.



The Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum is dedicated to the construction history of Fort Peck Dam and Lake, the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, and to the prehistoric dinosaurs found in the Hell Creek Geological Formation.



Recreation



Fort Peck Lake has some of the best fishing along the Missouri River. The lake offers an excellent array of walleye, small-mouth bass, Chinook salmon, sauger, Northern pike, and paddle fish. Many other native and introduced species of fish reside in the river and reservoir.



Photo Courtesy of S. Espeland



The Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge surrounds the lake with over 1.1 million acres of land, including the 245,000-acre Fort Peck reservoir. Inhabitants include more than 60 species of mammals including elk, deer, and the endangered black-footed ferret. In addition, there are more than 250 species of birds, ranging from bald eagles to sage grouse. The Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge is the largest refuge in the lower 48 states.



The Hell Creek Geological Formation is a prehistoric graveyard located in the badlands along the shores of the lake. It is famous for its numerous dinosaur fossils.



Live plays are performed throughout the summer at the historic Fort Peck Theater and the Fort Peck Hotel is an experience that will take you back to the construction days of the 1930's.

History

The surrounding area of Fort Peck was first charted by Lewis and Clark in 1804, and recognized for its pristine natural views.

The Old Fort Peck Trading Post, for which the project was named, was built in 1867 as a landing for steamboats traveling upstream.



Construction of the Fort Peck Dam started in 1933 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the project as part of the New Deal during the Great Depression.

The original purposes of the dam were flood control and navigation.

More than 40,000 people flocked to the area looking for work, creating 18 boomtowns featuring businesses and schools. The work force peaked in 1936, with 10,564 workers directly linked to the dam construction.

Workers overcame a massive earth slide in 1938, affecting a quarter of the dam. The dam was completed two years later, seven years after it was authorized.



Fort Peck later became a Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Project which was authorized in the 1944 Flood Control Act. Authorized purposes include flood control, navigation, fish and wildlife, hydroelectric power, public water, recreation, irrigation, and water quality.



Fort Peck Dam is the largest hydraulically-filled dam in the world.